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23373 7590 03/19/2008

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER

BOKHARI, SYED M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2616

DATE MAILED: 03/19/2008

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/720,095

11/25/2003

Naoki Mori

Q78622

4866

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR QOS CONTROL USING WIRELESS LAN NETWORK, ITS BASE STATION, AND TERMINAL

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1440	\$300	\$0	\$1740	06/19/2008

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

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If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

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B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

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23373 7590 03/19/2008

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/720,095 11/25/2003 Naoki Mori Q78622 4866

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR QOS CONTROL USING WIRELESS LAN NETWORK, ITS BASE STATION, AND TERMINAL

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
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nonprovisional NO \$1440 \$300 \$0 \$1740 06/19/2008

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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BOKHARI, SYED M 2616 370-229000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____

3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

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☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/720,095	11/25/2003	Naoki Mori	Q78622	4866
23373	7590	03/19/2008	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			BOKHARI, SYED M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2616	
DATE MAILED: 03/19/2008				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 883 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 883 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/720,095

Examiner

SYED BOKHARI

Applicant(s)

MORI ET AL.

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 02/25/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-8 renumbered as 1 and 2-7 respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>See Continuation Sheet</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date: 10/13/2006, 05/09/2006, 12/22/2005 and 11/25/2003.

Reason for allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement for reason for allowance: claims 1 and 3-8 are allowed.

The present invention is directed to a system for quality of service using a wireless LAN comprising of authentication and policy servers for user's authentication and storage of quality of service contents respectively and also to notifying wireless LAN base station of the service. Each independent claim identifies the features based on the quality of service control with utilizing the authentication and policy servers in a wireless LAN environment.

Regarding claim 1, a QoS control system using a wireless LAN network, comprising: a wireless LAN base station connected to the wireless LAN network; and one or a plurality of wireless LAN terminals connected to the wireless LAN base station via the wireless LAN network, wherein said wireless LAN base station comprises means for receiving information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal and a QoS service content of a user whose authentication is required from a server via a communication network, the server being configured to, when the user of the wireless LAN network requires a user's authentication from the wireless LAN terminal, authenticate the user of the wireless LAN network whose authentication is required based on a recorded user's authentication information and notify the wireless LAN base station of the information and the QoS service content, the QoS service content including a priority information,

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means for receiving information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal from the wireless LAN terminal via the wireless LAN network, and means for carrying out priority control in accordance with the priority information of the QoS service content from the server, if the information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal from the wireless LAN terminal corresponds to that from the server, and wherein said wireless LAN terminal comprises means for requiring the user's authentication the wireless LAN base station, means for receiving the priority information of the QoS service content notified from the server via the wireless LAN base station, and means for carrying out the priority control in accordance with the priority information, wherein said server comprises: an authentication server which stores the authentication information for each user of the wireless LAN network and notifies the information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal and a user information of the user, when the user of the wireless LAN network carries out authentication request from the wireless LAN terminal via the wireless LAN base station; and a policy server which stores a QoS service content for each user and notifies the wireless LAN base station of the QoS service content corresponding to the user information notified from the authentication server together with the information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal.

Regarding claim 4, a wireless LAN base station for communicating with a one or a plurality of wireless LAN terminals via a wireless LAN network, said wireless LAN base station comprising: means for receiving information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal and a QoS service content of a user whose authentication is required from a server via a communication network, the server being configured to, when the user of

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the wireless LAN network requires a user's authentication from the wireless LAN terminal, authenticate the user of the wireless LAN network whose authentication is required based on a recorded user's authentication information and notify the wireless LAN base station of the information and the QoS service content, the QoS service content including a priority information; means for receiving information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal from the wireless LAN terminal via the wireless LAN network; and means for carrying out priority control in accordance with the priority information of the QoS service content from the server, if the information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal from the wireless LAN terminal corresponds to that from the server and wherein said server comprises: an authentication server which stores the authentication information for each user of the wireless LAN network and notifies the information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal and a user information of the user, when the user of the wireless LAN network carries out authentication request from the wireless LAN terminal via the wireless LAN base station; and a policy server which stores a QoS service content for each user and notifies the wireless LAN base station of the QoS service content corresponding to the user information notified from the authentication server together with the information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal.

Regarding claim 5, a wireless LAN terminal for communicating with a wireless LAN base station via a wireless LAN network, the wireless LAN base station comprising: means for requiring a user's authentication to the wireless LAN base station, wherein the wireless LAN base station receives information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal and a QoS service content of a user whose authentication is

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required from a server via a communication network, the server is configured to authenticate the user of the wireless LAN network whose authentication is required based on a recorded user's authentication information and notify the wireless LAN base station of the information and the QoS service content, and the QoS service content includes a priority information; means for receiving the priority information of the QoS service content notified from the server via the wireless LAN base station; and means for carrying out the priority control in accordance with the priority information, if the information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal from the server is correct and wherein said server comprises: an authentication server which stores the authentication information for each user of the wireless LAN network and notifies the information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal and a user information of the user, when the user of the wireless LAN network carries out authentication request from the wireless LAN terminal via the wireless LAN base station; and a policy server which stores a QoS service content for each user and notifies the wireless LAN base station of the QoS service content corresponding to the user information notified from the authentication server together with the information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal.

Regarding claim 6, a QoS control method of a wireless LAN network including a wireless LAN base station and one or a plurality of wireless LAN terminals to be connected to the wireless LAN base station, said method comprising the steps of: performing a first step by a server connected to the wireless LAN base station via the wireless LAN network, comprising the steps of authenticating a user of the wireless LAN network whose authentication is required based on a recorded user's authentication

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information, when the user of the wireless LAN network requires a user's authentication from the wireless LAN terminal, and notifying the wireless LAN base station of information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal and a QoS service content of a user whose authentication is required from a server via a communication network, the QoS service content including a priority information; performing a second step by the wireless LAN base station comprising the steps of receiving the information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal and the QoS service content of a user whose authentication is required from the server via the communication network, receiving information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal from the wireless LAN terminal via the wireless LAN network, and carrying out priority control in accordance with the priority information of the QoS service content from the server, if the information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal from the wireless LAN terminal corresponds to that from the server; and performing a third step by the wireless LAN terminal comprising the steps of requiring a user's authentication the wireless LAN base station, receiving the priority information of the QoS service content notified from the server via the wireless LAN base station, and carrying out the priority control in accordance with the priority information and wherein said server comprises: an authentication server which stores the authentication information for each user of the wireless LAN network and notifies the information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal and a user information of the user, when the user of the wireless LAN network carries out authentication request from the wireless LAN terminal via the wireless LAN base station; and a policy server which stores a QoS service content for each user and notifies the wireless LAN base station of

the QoS service content corresponding to the user information notified from the authentication server together with the information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal.

Regarding claim 7, a QoS control program for enabling a computer of wireless LAN base station to execute a QoS control method of a wireless LAN network, said wireless LAN network including the wireless LAN base station and one or a plurality of wireless LAN terminals to be connected to the wireless LAN base station, said QoS control method comprising the steps of: receiving authentication request from the wireless LAN terminal; adding the received authentication request to information with respect to the wireless LAN base station; transmitting the added authentication request to a server, wherein the server is connected to the wireless LAN base station via the wireless LAN network, the server is configured to authenticate a user of the wireless LAN network whose authentication is required based on a recorded user's authentication information and to notify the wireless LAN base station of information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal and a QoS service content of a user whose authentication is required from a server via a communication network, and the QoS service content includes a priority information; if the server does not authenticate the user whose authentication is requested, transmitting the information indicating that the server fails to authenticate the user, to the wireless LAN terminal; and if the server authenticates the user whose authentication is requested, carrying out priority control with respect to the wireless LAN terminal defined by the information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal from the server in accordance with the priority information of the

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QoS service from the server and wherein said server comprises: an authentication server which stores the authentication information for each user of the wireless LAN network and notifies the information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal and a user information of the user, when the user of the wireless LAN network carries out authentication request from the wireless LAN terminal via the wireless LAN base station; and a policy server which stores a QoS service content for each user and notifies the wireless LAN base station of the QoS service content corresponding to the user information notified from the authentication server together with the information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal.

Regarding claim 8, a QoS control program for enabling a computer of wireless LAN terminal to execute a QoS control method of a wireless LAN network, said wireless LAN network including a wireless LAN base station and the wireless LAN terminal to be connected to the wireless LAN base station, said QoS control method comprising the steps of: requiring a user's authentication to the wireless LAN base station, wherein the wireless LAN base station receives information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal and a QoS service content of a user whose authentication is required from a server via a communication network, the server is configured to authenticate the user of the wireless LAN network whose authentication is required based on a recorded user's authentication information and notify the wireless LAN base station of the information and the QoS service content, and the QoS service content includes a priority information; receiving the priority information of the QoS service content notified from the server via the wireless LAN base station; and carrying out the priority control in

accordance with the priority information, if the server authenticates the user whose authentication is requested and wherein said server comprises: an authentication server which stores the authentication information for each user of the wireless LAN network and notifies the information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal and a user information of the user, when the user of the wireless LAN network carries out authentication request from the wireless LAN terminal via the wireless LAN base station; and a policy server which stores a QoS service content for each user and notifies the wireless LAN base station of the QoS service content corresponding to the user information notified from the authentication server together with the information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal.

The closet art Shin et al. (US 2005/0286489 A1) disclose a wireless LAN base station connected to the wireless LAN network (Fig. 2, an authentication process by the conventional public wireless LAN, see “authentication system having the mobility in a wireless LAN” recited in paragraph 0014 lines 5-6), one or a plurality of wireless LAN terminals connected to the wireless LAN base station via the wireless LAN network (Fig. 2, an authentication process by the conventional public wireless LAN, see “each of access point composes of plurality of wireless terminals” recited in paragraph 0027 lines 1-5), the wireless LAN base station comprises means for receiving information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal (Fig. 2, an authentication process by the conventional public wireless LAN, see “access point authenticates the wireless terminals” recited in paragraph 0027 lines 1-5 paragraph 0016 lines 3-12); a user whose

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authentication is required from a server via a communication network (Fig. 2, an authentication process by the conventional public wireless LAN, see “an access point wirelessly connected to a wireless terminal, outputting an authentication request message” recited in paragraph 0014 lines 5-6); the server being configured to, when the user of the wireless LAN network requires a user's authentication from the wireless LAN terminal, authenticate the user of the wireless LAN network whose authentication is required based on a recorded user's authentication information and notify the wireless LAN base station of the information (Fig. 2, an authentication process by the conventional public wireless LAN, see “a wireless terminal requesting for authentication to the authentication server ” recited in paragraph 0014 lines 5-18); means for receiving information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal from the wireless LAN terminal via the wireless LAN network (see paragraph 0013 lines 1-8 on page 1 in Disclosure of Invention) and means for requiring the user's authentication the wireless LAN base station (Fig. 2, an authentication process by the conventional public wireless LAN, see “a wireless terminal requesting for authentication to the authentication server ” recited in the first access point transmits an authentication message to the access point manager” recited in paragraph 0033 lines 1-6).

Li et al. (USP 6,654,363 B1) the QoS control system and the QoS service content including a priority information (Fig. 1, an IP QoS management architecture for delivering IP QoS in wireless network, see “management mechanism provides the wireless network guarantee delivery of IP services” recited in column 2 lines 23-30), means for carrying out priority control in accordance with the priority information of the

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QoS service content from the server , if the information for identifying the wireless LAN terminal from the wireless LAN terminal corresponds to that from the server (Fig. 1, an IP QoS management architecture for delivering IP QoS in wireless network, see “management mechanism provides the wireless network guarantee delivery of IP services” recited in column 3 lines 66-67 and column 4 lines 1-15), means for receiving the priority information of the QoS service content notified from the server via the wireless LAN base station (Fig. 1, an IP QoS management architecture for delivering IP QoS in wireless network, see “management mechanism provides the wireless network guarantee delivery of IP services” recited in column 8 lines 41-47) and means for carrying out the priority control in accordance with the priority information (Fig. 1, an IP QoS management architecture for delivering IP QoS in wireless network, see “priority values within the wireless domain” recited in column 8 lines 41-47 column 9 lines 6-16). Therefore the closet prior arts listed above in combination failed to anticipate or render the distinct features of independent claims obvious.

Dependent claim 3 is allowed since it is dependent on claim 1.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no longer than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid delay, should preferably accompany of reason of Allowance.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 2002/0124190 A1 (Siegel et al.) and USP 7,249,374 B1 (Lear et al.).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SYED BOKHARI whose telephone number is (571)270-3115. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00-17:00 Hrs..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kwang B. Yao can be reached on (571) 272-3182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Syed Bokhari/

Examiner, Art Unit 2616

3/10/2008

/Kwang B. Yao/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2616